

PRESS RELEASE

New **Project CHILD** Report Offers Hope for Closing Achievement Gaps

Innovative program demonstrates impressive success rates for high poverty students.

Tallahassee, FL 1/13/09: The Institute for School Innovation (ISI) has released the **2008 Evaluation Report for Project CHILD**, documenting its impact on academic achievement at 18 Florida schools. The report compares FCAT scores for students within the same school populations in grades 3-5 participating in Project CHILD classes, with scores for students not participating in the program. The report also compares the CHILD scores with state and district averages.

The report compares the percentage of students scoring Level 3 and above on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). Level 3 is considered to be the grade level passing score. Composite scores across 93 CHILD classrooms showed that CHILD students scored higher than their non-CHILD peers in 82% of the comparisons for reading, and 70% for mathematics.

Grade by grade analysis showed that the CHILD students scoring Level 3 or above exceeded the non-CHILD averages in every case for both reading and mathematics. The CHILD students outperformed the district and state averages as well. For example in Grade Three reading, 85% of the CHILD students scored at Level 3 and above compared to 73% for the non-CHILD students at the same schools, and 72% for all scores across the state. In mathematics 84% of the CHILD students scored at Level 3 and above, compared to 75% for the non-CHILD students at the same schools, and 76% for all scores across the state.

A sub-analysis of Title One schools showed that the CHILD students not only surpassed their Title One peers within their schools and districts, they even surpassed the overall state averages for all students. (Title One is the Federal designation for schools with large numbers of students qualifying for free and reduced price meals.) For example, in Grade Five, 72% of the CHILD Title One students scored at Level 3 and above in reading, compared to 53% for the non-CHILD Title One classes, 56% for all Title One students across the state, and 67% for all fifth grade students across the state. For mathematics, 73% of the CHILD Title One students scored at Level 3 and above, compared to 55% for the non-CHILD Title One classes, 49% for all Title One students across the state, and 61% for all fifth grade students across the state.

“These data are very encouraging for educators seeking solutions for closing achievement gaps for children living in poverty,” said Dr. Sally Butzin, the developer of Project CHILD and Executive Director of the Institute for School Innovation. “Clearly the results we see here demonstrate that the CHILD strategies of active learning and technology integration help more children succeed in school no matter what challenges they face.”

Mary Gunter, Chairperson of the ISI Board of Directors and Principal of Liza Jackson Preparatory School in Ft. Walton Beach stated that “this report is the latest in a long series of reports demonstrating the effectiveness of Project CHILD to raise academic standards. We hope more educators will take note and use Project CHILD as a strategy for success at their schools. We welcome more participation.”

ABOUT PROJECT CHILD: Project CHILD (Changing How Instruction for Learning is Delivered) offers a three-dimensional approach to teaching and learning that safeguards the best of the past (caring teachers and involved students) yet adds the promise of the future through differentiated instruction tailored to each child's learning styles with a strong technology component. Students work at their own pace at various work stations using computers and hands-on activities, along with textbooks and written work. Teacher Stations address small groups and individualized instruction.

The CHILD model teams three teachers across three grade levels (K-2) and (3-5) each specializing in a core subject – math, writing or reading – and teach their subject to all three grades. This approach allows teachers to become experts in a single subject area and work with the same children for three years. CHILD students have security, continuity, and personal attention from a team of three dedicated teachers.

ABOUT ISI: The Institute for School Innovation is a private non-profit organization that provides ongoing research and development, as well as teacher training and coaching to successfully implement essential Project CHILD components. Project CHILD was developed in 1988 at Florida State University. For more information and a copy of the full [CHILD 2008 Evaluation Report](#) visit www.ifs.org.